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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,605	12/11/2001	Bharadwaj S. Amrutur	10010107-1	6541

7590 02/20/2007  
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.  
Legal Department, DL429  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 7599  
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

EXAMINER
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TORRES, JOSEPH D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2133

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/20/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Interview Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/020,605	AMRUTUR ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Joseph D. Torres	2133	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Joseph D. Torres. (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) Steven Greenfield. (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: 15 February 2007.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.  
 If Yes, brief description: N/A.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Kumar.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Discussed invtive concepts in the application that overcome the current Prior Arts.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

JOSEPH D. TORRES  
 PRIMARY EXAMINER  
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner's signature, if required

## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

#### Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

**HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.**

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK MATTERS

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CONFIRMATION SENT VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL  
YES \_\_\_ NO XNUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW 12**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

DATE: February 5, 2007

TO: Primary Examiner Joseph Torres, PHD

COMPANY: United States Patent And Trademark Office

FAX NUMBER: 571 273-3829

FROM: STEVEN GREENFIELD (972) 680-6058

SERIAL NO: 10/020605

OUR FILE: 10010107-1 (AGIL-27349)

ATTACHED (pages): Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form (1), and Draft  
Amendment ( 11)

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COMMENT:

571-273-0067

PTOL-413A (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/020605 First Named Applicant: AMRUTUR  
 Examiner: Joseph D. TORRES Art Unit: 2133 Status of Application: NON-FINAL

## Tentative Participants:

(1) STEVE GREENFIELD (2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Interview: FEB 13, 2007 Proposed Time: 2 (AM/PM)

## Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video ConferenceExhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO  
If yes, provide brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

## Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>Rej.</u>	<u>1, 6, 34, 35, 36, 37</u>	<u>KUMAR</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u><del>Rej.</del></u>	_____	<u>GHERARDI</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) <u>112 Rej.</u>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheet Attached					

## Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

1. When KUMAR divides bits into groups.
2. Gherardi requires both block codes & frames with alignment words.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature

Examiner/SPE Signature

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

Registration Number, if applicable

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.13 and 1.34. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

ATTNY DOCKET: 1001 0107-1  
(AGIL-27,349)

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Bharadwaj S. Amrutur

Serial No.: 10/020,605

Confirmation No.: 6541

Filed: December 11, 2001

Group: 2133

Examiner: Joseph D. Torres

For: SERIAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

**DRAFT**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

This communication is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed November 6, 2006.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

**DRAFT****In the Claims**

1. (Current Amended) A serial communications link comprising:

- 2 a scrambler device for receiving a source encoded data bit stream, the scrambler device  
3 scrambles the data bit stream one K-bit group at a time on a group-wise basis to produce one  
4 scrambled K-bit group of data at a time ~~scrambled groups of data~~ to statistically balance the  
5 number of logic low and logic high bits in ~~the groups~~ each scrambled K-bit group of data; and  
6 an ECC encoder device that receives one of said scrambled K-bit groups of data at a time  
7 ~~the scrambled groups of data~~ from the scrambler device and converts each said scrambled K-bit  
8 group groups of data into ECC-encoded data, said ECC-encoded data comprises ECC redundant  
code bits that implicitly comprise ~~comprises implicit~~ frame alignment information.

2. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

- 2 a serializer for converting said ECC-encoded data into serialized data; and  
3 a receiver for receiving said serialized data and converting the serialized data into data  
4 frames based upon the implicit frame alignment information.

3. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the receiver

2 comprises:

a frame-recoverer for converting said serialized data into data frames;

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**DRAFT**

4 an ECC decoder for converting said data frames into ECC-decoded data and error  
indications; and

6 a descrambler for converting said ECC-decoded data into de-scrambled data.

4. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 3, wherein said frame-  
2 recoverer uses said error indications in converting said serialized data into data frames.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A serial communications method, comprising the steps of:

2 receiving a data bit stream, from an originating source, at a scrambler device, said data bit  
stream comprising data bits and other bits;

4 converting, one K-bit group at a time on a group-wise basis, said data bit stream into one  
scrambled K-bit group of data at a time ~~groups of scrambled data~~, by said scrambler device, prior  
6 to performing another data function on said data bit stream, ~~said groups of each~~ scrambled K-bit  
group of data each comprising groups of data bits having a statistically balanced number of logic  
8 low and logic high data bits; and

converting each scrambled K-bit group of data ~~said scrambled data~~ into ECC-encoded  
10 data, said ECC-encoded data comprises redundant code bits that implicitly comprise ~~comprises~~  
~~implicit~~ frame alignment information.



**DRAFT**

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

2 generating a serial stream of the ECC-encoded data; and  
transmitting said serial stream.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein:

2 the method further comprises receiving said serialized data and converting said serialized  
data into data frames based upon said implicit frame alignment information.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising:

2 receiving said serialized data;

converting said serialized data into data frames;

4 converting said data frames into ECC-decoded data and error indications; and

converting said ECC-decoded data into de-scrambled data.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of converting the serialized data

2 comprises converting the serialized data into data frames based upon said error indications.

11. - 33. (Canceled)

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34. (Currently Amended) A serial communication link comprising:

2 a scrambler device programed to convert a received bit stream, one K-bit group at a time,  
into one K-bit group of scrambled data at a time, ~~on a group wise basis, a received bit stream~~  
4 ~~into groups of K scrambled data bits~~ so as to statistically balance the number of logic low and  
logic high bits in each ~~group of K~~ K-bit group of scrambled data bits, said received bit stream  
6 being without redundant bits and being substantially only source encoded prior to being  
scrambled; and

8 an ECC encoder programmed to convert each K-bit group of scrambled data, one at a  
time, ~~said scrambled data~~ into ECC-encoded data, said ECC-encoded data comprises a  
10 redundant code bit that comprises implicit frame alignment information.

35. (Currently Amended) A serial communications link comprising:

2 a scrambler device for receiving a data bit stream being substantially only data source  
encoded, the scrambler device scrambles the data bit stream one K-bit group at a time to produce  
4 one on a group wise basis into scrambled K-bit groups of data group of data at a time; and

an ECC encoder device that receives the one of said scrambled K-bit groups of data at a  
6 time from the scrambler device and converts said scrambled K-bit groups of data into ECC-  
encoded data, said ECC-encoded data comprises redundant code bits that implicitly comprise  
8 ~~comprises implicit~~ frame alignment information.

36. (Currently Amended) A serial communications method, comprising the steps of:

2 receiving a data bit stream at a scrambler device, said data bit stream comprising data bits  
and other bits resulting from data source encoding;

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4        converting, one K-bit group at a time on a group-wise basis, said data bit stream into one  
scrambled K-bit group of data at a time grouped scrambled data, by said scrambler device, prior  
6        to performing another data function on said data bit stream; and  
      converting each scrambled K-bit group of data ~~said scrambled data~~ into ECC-encoded  
8        data, said ECC-encoded data comprises a redundant code bit that implicitly comprises ~~implicit~~  
frame alignment information.

37. (Currently Amended) A serial communication link comprising:

2        a scrambler device programed to convert, on a K-bit group-wise basis, a source encoded  
data bit stream into K-bit grouped scrambled data; and  
4        an ECC encoder programmed to convert said K-bit grouped scrambled data into ECC-  
encoded data, said ECC-encoded data comprises redundant code bits that implicitly ~~comprise~~  
6        ~~comprises implicit~~ frame alignment information.

**DRAFT****REMARKS**

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated November 6, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 and 34-37 are pending in this Application.

Claims 1, 6, 34, 35, 36 and 37 have been amended.

**Regarding the Section 112 Rejection**

Claims 1-10 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant has read the Examiner's comments and has amended the claims to substantially coincide with the language of the written description of the originally filed application (e.g., page 7, line 22 through page 8, line 13). Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6-10, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended independent claims 6, 36 and 37 to correct the antecedent basis issue in each claim. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-10, 36 and 37 are amended to be definite and to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection be withdrawn.

**Regarding the Section 103 Rejection**

Claims 1, 34, 35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by *Kumar* (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,807) in view of *Gherardi* (U.S. Patent No. 4,943,985).

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As discussed in the previous Amendment and in the Examiner's previous Office Action, Applicant continues to agree with the Examiner that *Kumar* does not teach the specific use of scrambling on a group-wise basis. Scrambling on group-wise basis would be receiving source encoded messages comprising groups of bits and scrambling the groups of bits one at a time to produce scrambled messages one at a time. Applicant respectfully submits that *Kumar* is quite clear in Column 7, beginning at Line 4, that the scrambling is not on a group-wise or on a grouped K-bit basis. *Kumar* does not teach, suggest or discuss scrambling groups of data in the *Kumar* scrambling function. It is not until column 7, line 57 of *Kumar* that *Kumar* begins to discuss how the bits are divided into groups. *Kumar* states at Column 7, Line 57 "the encoded and interleaved message is divided into groups of bits, which are to be simultaneously transmitted in a single information symbol or baud, by serial-to-parallel converter 5." Thus, *Kumar* does not teach, suggest, or render obvious dividing the data into groups of bits until at least after the data has been scrambled, encoded and interleaved. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that *Kumar* does not teach, suggest, or render obvious "converting, one K-bit group at a time, said data bit stream into one scrambled K-bit group of data at a time by said scrambler device."

Applicant also respectfully points out that *Gherardi* at Column 1, beginning at Line 63 through Column 2, Line 4, requires the digital bit stream to be both (1) divided into blocks by a block code and (2) that the data bit stream be structured into frames marked by alignment words. There is no discussion of the use of redundant bits in *Gherardi*'s block code or frame alignment words. Furthermore, *Gherardi* does not teach, suggest, or render obvious ECC-encoded data that comprises redundant code bits that implicitly comprise frame alignment information. Applicant further points out that *Gherardi* teaches away from converting scrambled groups of data into ECC-encoded data wherein the "ECC-encoded data comprises redundant code bits that implicitly comprises frame alignment information" because *Gherardi* specifically requires a synchronous digital bit stream divided into blocks by a block code and structured in frames marked by alignment words, which are used to provide alignment information. There is no redundant code bits provided by ECC-encoded data that implicitly comprise frame alignment information taught, suggested, or rendered obvious by *Gherardi* by itself or in combination with other cited references.

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**DRAFT**

Claim 1, as amended, recites a scrambler device that "scrambles the data bit stream one K-bit group at a time to produce one scrambled K-bit group of data at a time." Furthermore, claim 1, as amended, recites an ECC encoder device that converts "each said scrambled K-bit group of data into ECC-encoded data, said ECC-encoded data comprises ECC-redundant code bits that implicitly comprise frame alignment information." Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or render obvious all the elements of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 1 is now ready for allowance.

Claim 34 recites "a scrambler device programmed to convert a received bit stream, one K-bit group at a time, into one K-bit group of scrambled data at a time." Furthermore, claim 34 recites an "ECC encoder programmed to convert each K-bit group of scrambled data, one at a time, into ECC-encoded data . . . that comprises implicit frame alignment information." Claim 35 recites a scramble device that scrambles "the data bit stream one K-bit group at a time to produce one scrambled K-bit group of data at a time." Claim 35 further recites that the "ECC-encoded data comprise redundant code bits that implicitly comprises frame alignment information." Claim 37 recites a scrambler device programmed "to convert, on a K-bit group-wise basis, a source encoded data bit stream into K-bit grouped scrambled data." Claim 37 also recites an ECC encoder that is programmed to convert "said K-bit grouped scrambled data into ECC-encoded data . . . that comprises redundant code bits that implicitly comprise frame alignment information." As discussed above, the cited references do not, by themselves or when combined, suggest or render obvious the recited features of claims 34, 35 and 37. Since the cited references do not teach or suggest one or more of the required elements of claims 34, 35 and 37, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection and submits that claims 34, 35 and 37 are ready for allowance.

Claims 2, 6-8 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being rendered obvious over *Kumar* and *Gherardi* in view of *Adam* (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,725).

With respect to claim 2, Applicant respectfully points out that *Adam* does not alleviate the deficiencies of the *Kumar* and *Gherardi* references discussed above. As such, Applicant

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respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 2 is ready for allowance.

Furthermore with respect to claim 6, the cited references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest "converting, one K-bit group at a time, said data bit stream into one scrambled K-bit group of data at a time by said scrambler device" or "converting each scrambled K-bit group of data into ECC-encoded data" wherein the ECC-encoded data "comprises redundant code bits that implicitly comprise frame alignment information. Applicant respectfully submits that *Kumar*, *Gherardi*, or *Adam*, taken individually or in combination, therefore do not teach or suggest claim 6. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 6 is ready for allowance.

With respect to claims 7, 8, 9 and 10, each of these claims are now allowable at least because they depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 6. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection and submits that claims 7, 8, 9 and 10 are all ready for allowance.

With respect to claim 36, the cited references as discussed above do not teach or suggest the features of claim 36 including "converting each scrambled K-bit group of data into ECC-encoded data, said ECC-encoded data comprises a redundant code bit that implicitly comprises frame alignment information." As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 36 is ready for allowance.

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**DRAFT**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraws the rejections of record, allows all the pending claims, and finds this Application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain an issue that may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicant

**DRAFT**

Steven R. Greenfield  
Registration No. 38166

SRG/ljo

P.O. Box 741715  
Dallas, Texas 75374-1715  
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Fax: 972-479-0464  
December 15, 2006

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

SN: 10/020,605

APP. FILE NO. 1001 0107.0 (AGU 27 349)

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